



What is PFOMS?

PFOMS is a statewide biomonitoring project focused on Michigan firefighters. The primary purpose of the project is to determine firefighters' average exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), chemicals commonly found in Class B foams. The findings of the project will help inform decisions to minimize firefighters' exposure to PFAS.

What population will be invited to participate in this project?

All career and volunteer firefighters from airport fire stations and randomly selected municipal fire departments across Michigan will be invited to participate.

How will fire stations be selected to participate?

- All airport fire stations will be selected and all firefighters working at these stations will be invited to participate.
- For the Detroit Fire Department, some fire stations will be selected at random. All adult firefighters assigned to these selected fire stations will be invited to participate.
- For the rest of Michigan firefighters, some municipal fire departments will be selected at random. All adult firefighters working at these fire departments will be invited to participate.

What types of information will be gathered?

From participants:



Small sample of blood



Questions about job duties and behaviors that relate to PFAS exposure.

From selected departments and stations:

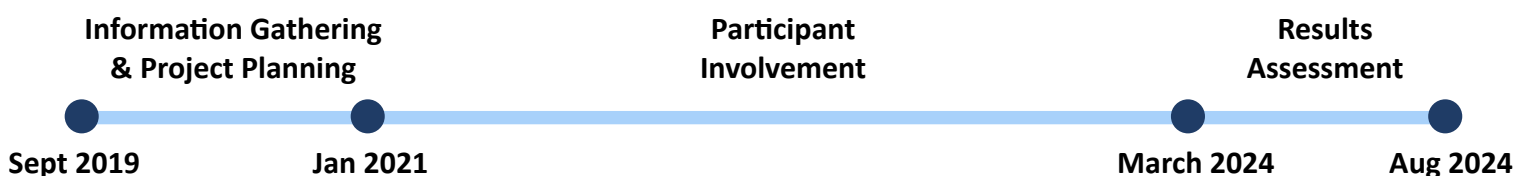


Drinking water samples



Questions about water supply, incident response records and firefighting foam usage and storage.

What is the project timeline?





How will information collected for this project be protected?



It will be stored on a secure server.



It will be password-protected.



Personnel will have limited access to it.



Staff is trained on data security and identity protection.

What can the blood test results tell me?

- The amount of PFAS in your blood at the time it was drawn from your body.
- We will not be testing your blood for any drugs, chemicals, and will not be doing any genetic testing.

What can't the blood test results tell me?

- Where any PFAS in your blood came from.
- Information about chemicals we did not test for.
- If PFAS have harmed your health.
- If PFAS will harm your health in the future.

What are some examples of where PFAS can be found?

- Firefighting foam
- Stain and water-resistant products
- Food packaging
- Metal plating applications, such as chrome plating
- Water seepage from landfills
- Carpet and other textiles



How can firefighters be exposed to PFAS?

- By using firefighting foam that contains PFAS.
- Through water-repellent fabrics used in gear.
- Through firefighting foam residue on gear and equipment.
- Through PFAS-contaminated drinking water.

How can firefighters reduce exposure to PFAS?

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), firefighters can reduce exposure to PFAS by wearing personal protective equipment and a self-contained breathing apparatus whenever handling firefighting foam. You can learn more by visiting the [USFA website](https://www.usfa.fda.gov/).